

1158

Japan

THE JAPAN MISSION

OF THE

METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH



1917

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Joint Mission Conference, Karuizawa, 1917.



Billie Revision Committee

FOREWORD

Since the organization of the Japan Methodist Church in 1907, the Japan Mission of the Methodist Episcopal Church has been united with the Missions of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, and the Methodist Church in Canada, in building up the Japan Methodist Church, which is the natural child in the Faith of these three Missions. Although the contribution of the Methodist Episcopal Church to the union was larger than that of either of the other Missions, we cannot since that date set down in definite figures the proportion of the results which belong to our efforts; but it will not be boasting to state that our Church has contributed its full share to the excellent increase which the intervening years have brought.

The erection of the Japan Methodist Church as an autonomous body, with full self-government, was an act necessary to the highest development of the kingdom of our Lord in this land. In spite of all objections thereto, the result has justified the act, and now no one would think of going back to the old regime. The following figures contain vital encouragement to those who know the situation:—

JAPAN METHODIST CHURCH STATISTICS

	1907	1914	1915	1916
Ministers, all,	—	232	229	249
Total Members... ..	12,014	13,838	16,000	19,570
Sunday Schools	247	340	465	512
Officers and Teachers	992	1,148	1,260	1,524
Scholars	21,298	23,605	33,271	34,848
Churches	—	245	236	297
Self-Sup Chs.	16	—	25	27
Pastoral Sup. ¥	16,414	24,000	25,547	28,721
For all Purposes	38,229	—	65,586	71,691
Baptisms	1,360	—	1,750	2,442

The amount of foreign aid from the three Missions to the Japan Methodist Church is systematically decreasing, and the amount thus saved is being wisely used by the Missionaries in the further extension of the evangelistic work, still carried on by the Missions. All such gains strengthen the Japan Methodist Church, and hasten the victory of our Leader in this land.

To men of vision it becomes increasingly clear that to save the Far East we must save Japan. Whatever coloring one's political opinions may take on, whatever one's views as to the comparative moral value of the different forms of political organization surrounding us, one thing is sure, and that is that the political and moral leadership of a people has much to do in determining that people's attitude toward the lofty, pure and exacting religion of the Great Teacher from Nazareth. A strenuous attempt is now being made all through this land, by those in authority, through school, through

(Concluded inside back cover)

HOKKAIDO DISTRICT

F. W. HECKELMAN, SUPT

Hokkaido has an area of 30,267 sq. miles, and a population of 1,911,166, open-minded, progressive, free, vigorous people, only 18,347, of whom are native *Ainu*. Sapporo, the Capital numbers 100,125 souls, and Hakodate and Otaru, two very important ports, 102,929 and 98,746 respectively.

Commercially and Industrially the Hokkaido, with its 1,000 miles of railway is very important. Lumber, coal, copper, fish, farm fruits and grains, our chief products, together with the output of our 469 factories, are exported in large quantities to the mainland and to America and Europe.

The Social Situation is one of extreme laxity. The 33,832 operatives in the factories are almost totally neglected, socially and spiritually. Licensed prostitution abounds, and is accompanied, as usual, with general social impurity and loose moral convictions.

The Educational Situation offers some encouragement. Primary schools furnish training for the children of all grades. Middle schools for young men are insufficient, and the establishment of one Christian Middle School for boys is a pressing demand. Our own Dr. Sato is President of the Government University located here, the influence of which is far-reaching. Two Christian schools for girls exist, our own at Hakodate and the Presbyterian at Sapporo, having 150 students each.

The Religious Situation may be briefly stated as follows:—*Shintoism* is largely a machine by which the State cultivates patriotism and loyalty to the ruling House. They have no formal creed, preaching, Sun-

day Schools, or membership lists, and meet no real religious need. *Buddhism* is making strenuous efforts to combat the encroaching influence of Christianity, through preaching, Sunday schools, &c. in imitation of Christians; but it has not yet cast its roots deep in the Hokkaido. As to *Christianity*, there are four Missions working the Hokkaido, having but 22 evangelistic missionaries, wives included, and 9 single ladies in school work. There are 57 pastors and evangelists, and 15 Bible-women, living in 42 places, and doing work in 99 places. Yet 245 organized cities and towns have no Christian work. Only 15 churches are self supporting, and the total members number but 6 250.

The Methodist Work of the District began with Bishop Harris, in 1873, and the present missionary-in-charge has served since 1908. At that time there were four church buildings and six pastors, one church being self-supporting. Now there self-supporting churches,—Sapporo, Otaru, and Hakodate,—and new churches have been built at Yakumo, Yoichi, Ebetsu, and Iwamizawa. We now have valuable property at 8 centers, free of debt. Self-support is steadily increasing. The District is now within \$288 of complete self-support. We have now 3 pastors, 5 Bible-women, one missionary family, and two single ladies in evangelistic work; and four ladies in school work. We work in 20 places. We need two more missionary families and 7 native pastors to meet our responsibility for one-fourth of this population. Bible classes in our new Wesley Building average about 50 young men in attendance.

In Recent Evangelistic Services conducted by the Rev. T. Kanamori, 2,763 decided for Christ. The spiritual impetus has been marked. The official class now favor our work, and some openly aid it.

HIROSAKI DISTRICT

E. T. IGLEHART

This district includes Aomori and Akita Kens, and has a population of 1 775,000 in an area of 8083 sq. miles. 90% of the people are in rural sections. Methodism's responsibility is one-third of the whole. Four other Missions have work here, the Episcopal, the Presbyterian, the Baptist and the Christian. Considerable sections have not been touched at all by the Christian missionary.

The Chief Products indicate clearly the character of the population. They are rice, apples, potatoes, lacquer wares, fish, and in about this order of importance.

The Status of Education in Aomori Ken is low. There are three Middle schools, and one Normal school, and two or three Industrial schools, above primary grade. In Akita Ken standards are higher. There are four good Middle schools, besides Industrial and Normal schools. One Christian girls' school of our Mission is located at Hirosaki, the only one in the District, tho there are several kindergartens and sewing schools. There is not a single Christian boys' school for this vast section.

Moral Conditions may be judged from the fact that even in this rural section there are said to be 1,500 prostitutes, and 600 licensed saloons. In general conditions average with the rest of Japan, and here there are no influences outside of Christianity to counteract the evil.

Religious Conditions, taken from official statistics, show 1,056 Buddhist Temples, 756 priests, with the usual influences accompanying. The Sodo sect is strongest, followed by the Jodo sect. Shintō claims

2,000 shrines and many priests. The non-Christian religions are not specially aggressive. Since Christianity has not yet seriously affected the general situation, other religions have made little attempt to emulate their activities. In some places they show hostility, and persecution prevails. The people are generally indifferent to religion.

Our Christian Work numbers 10 churches, 30 Sunday schools, and 2 kindergartens, with 400 church members, 1,200 in the Sunday schools, 60 girls in the Mission school, and 90 children in the kindergartens. Converts and inquirers have increased, new members have been added, and an awakening has come, chiefly through the meetings held by Mr. Kimura in Hachinohe and Hirosaki.

The Attitude of the Official Class toward our work is not usually unfriendly, but rather indifferent. But in places like Noshiro, where the official class is strongly dominated by the Buddhists, the opposition to our work is unceasing. This has been the case in Noshiro for years.

The Needs of this District are first, more workers. Beside a large increase in native Evangelists we ought to have at least two missionary families in Hirosaki, one to do work widely, traveling over the district, the other to confine his work mostly to Hirosaki city, and establish a Mission Middle School for boys. There is a fine opportunity in Hirosaki to do this, on the foundation of the school once conducted by the late Bishop Honda. It would do much to reach the better class, as well as the student class of Hirosaki. The next need is buildings,—better church buildings for our work. Little can be done unless we can adequately house the people who come to hear our message.

SENDAI DISTRICT

C. W. IGLEHART

This is an important section of Japan. The district known as Sendai covers parts of four provinces, has an area of 17,310 sq. miles, and a population of 3,951,500. Methodism is responsible for the evangelization of a fourth of this section. The other Protestant bodies sharing this work with us are the Baptists, German Reformed, American Christian Convention, Episcopal and Disciples. About 13% of the people live in cities of 10,000 and over. The leading industries are Silk, Rice, Fisheries, Mining, and Horse-raising.

The Educational situation is better than in some other sections. Primary schools meet the needs of all grades fairly well, and. Higher education is well developed in Sendai and Yonezawa. Sendai has a student population of 12,000. Our Church has a girl's school and the Reformed people have a fine boys' school, covering Academic, Middle and Theological grades; also a school for girls. The Episcopal people have a Kindergarten Training School and two kindergartens. The Baptists support a girls' school.

The Moral Situation averages with the other parts of Japan, the Government statistics claiming more than a thousand licensed prostitutes. Add to this the *geisha*, and the accompanying influences, and we have work enough for all reformers right in this one district. The liquor business flourishes. Christianity is the only force that exerts any restraint upon these evils.

The non-Christian Religions are represented by the Hongwanji, the Nichiren and Zen sects of Buddhism, and the Tenrikyo of Shintō faith. Temples

to the number of 2,406 for the Buddhists, and 1,678 for the Shintoists are recorded, and the priests of the two number more than 2,500. The Hongwanji is modern in spirit, the Nichiren combative. But these religions are in the main indifferent to personal religion. This does not mean that they never oppose us.

Christian Work has been established in this center for some time, and Sendai is commonly thought to be the most Christian of any of the larger towns of the country ; but if this really be the true estimate, then a vast work still remains to be done all over the land. We have in the district 11 churches and chapels, 363 members, 25 Sunday schools, and about 1,000 children in them. For lack of workers and funds, no particular increase is to be recorded, though we are growing in strength for the task assigned us. The outlook is most encouraging. The total Christian churches number some 108, and the membership 5,730.

The Needs of our section are, first, another missionary family, so that one family can reside at Yonezawa, where we have secured a good building lot, and need a home ; and the school authorities ask for our assistance in teaching English. Beyond the above, and the ever-present need of the Spirit, we must have aggressive, spiritual pastors and more of them. Our schools, though good, are not furnishing the men we need, and until we can have more workers, the growth of the work must be slow. We need at least two more workers for every one now on the field.

The Attitude of the People is fair all round, and in the cities rather friendly toward our work. But it would be misleading to suppose that any wide religious awakening is manifest.

TOKYO EAST AND WEST DISTRICTS

EDWIN T. IGLEHART.

Two districts center in Tokyo, and are best reported together. Attached to them are some outlying districts, the boundaries of which do not conform to the provincial lines. Tokyo-fu has an area of 752 sq. miles, and a population of about 5,000,000, or some 3,740 to the sq. m. This is Japan's most heavily congested center. The two Tokyo districts cover about 7,500 sq. miles, all of which is thickly populated. And this population is constantly growing.

Missionary Forces in this district represent about all the Missions having work in this empire, as Tokyo is a natural center. Most of them work out more or less into the surrounding sections, traveling facilities being good. For full statistics the reader is referred to the "Christian Movement." However large the list of workers may seem to be the supply of workers per 100,000 of population is relatively light for this whole region. Tokyo city alone has some 2,250,000 people, and whole great sections of this city have no organized Christian work in them. Mission schools abound. Our Church has two strong schools, one for boys and young men, and one for girls, with good attendance in each.

Non-Christian Religions naturally have strong representation here, the capital of the country. The Buddhists have 2,568 temples with 2,104 priests; and Shinto claims 684 shrines with 340 priests. Tokyo is also a fruitful center for all the vagaries of a new world of ideas.

The Moral Situation is one requiring sober thought. The Government reports 6,041 licensed prostitutes,

and 5,684 *Geisha*, but this is not the whole of the sad story. Licensed prostitution stalks shamelessly about certain sections of the city, and in its wake follow all the evils of the saloon and the loose moral customs which spring up in spite of law.

As an industrial center, Tokyo is growing very rapidly. Silks, paper, cotton fabrics, articles of wood and metal, chemicals, drugs, paints, glass, &c. all have a place in the products of this busy market.

The Educational provisions are good. Tokyo numbers its students above Primary grades in tens of thousands. The Home Department seeks to aid the educational section by giving lectures on morals and public welfare through the country, but these lack the sanction of religion to enforce them.

Our Methodist Work is making good progress. In addition to our two schools, the Publishing House, and the churches and chapels in the city, we have work in Saitama-Ken and Chiba-Ken, and calls to many more places which should be at once occupied by us. The Mission holds itself specially responsible for the conduct of the evangelistic work at Asakusa, one of the most notorious and needy sections of the city. This is largely a place for seed-sowing. Chapel work is also conducted by us at Shibuya, and we assist all the churches in Sunday school and other work.

The Attitude of the public generally to our work is largely that of indifference. A hearing of the truth can always be had, and at times seems very sincere, especially with the student class. The officials are friendly and tolerant, and in occasional instances even encouraging and helpful. But there is no outstanding movement on religious lines.

Needs. At least two evangelistic missionary families resident in the district, with ample equipment and native help, and a good supply of literature.

YOKOHAMA DISTRICT

GIDEON F. DRAPER

Here is another great district covering 1,365 sq. miles, and having 1,300,000 people in it, or about 1240 to the sq. miles. Nearly 50% of them live in cities and towns. Methodism is responsible for one third of them, although there are eight other Missions having some work in the same area. No well defined division of the field has been made.

Along Industrial Lines, Yokohama has the general characteristics of a thriving seaport. The Silk trade, Shipbuilding, the making of Matches and Straw Braid are all large industries, and the growth of factories is phenomenal. Cotton works adding to their already immense plants, and machine shops of immense proportions are springing up. With the increasing wealth and business ability of the Japanese, many of these works are being taken over by them, and the foreigner is being eliminated, the main offices of the chief foreign firms moving to Tokyo.

Government educational provisions are fairly good. The 297 primary schools turnish rooms for 160,000 children. There are 7 Middle Schools with 2400 students, 2 Normal schools with 450 students, 7 technical schools with 1,200 pupils, and 8 other schools with 1,700 pupils.

Moral Conditions are most unsatisfactory. Being an open port town, the very worst elements of both Japanese and foreign birth flock to this sink of evil. In addition to 2311 licensed prostitutes, in 185 houses, there are 856 "Riyoriya" and 3411 "Inshokuten," places where men and women of low character congregate. In all these places intoxicants are sold. The police system is on the whole good, but the

problem of control of vice when a system of license prevails is unusually difficult. And with the exception of the Christian forces, which include the National Temperance League and the W. C. T. U., there are no influences working to restrain these evil tendencies.

The non-Christians religions of this district are less aggressive than in some sections. The Buddhists have 1742 temples, with the Nichiren sect in the lead. There are 1482 Shinto Shrines. Most of the people are indifferent to religion, and I do not know of any movement in this section which indicates any special desire for religious life.

Our Methodist Work made a gain this year of 39 members and a company of seekers, totaling 99 in all. We now have 7 Churches; 3 Chapels; 12 Sunday schools; 917 scholars; 1037 Church Members and Probationers; 1 Bible Woman's Training School with 22 students; 3 Day schools with 320 children in them; a Woman's Industrial school with 150 members; 2 Kindergartens with 130 children; and 1 Creche with 40 children. Ten other Missionary organizations having work here report 3800 members.

Other Conditions. I do not think it would be correct to say that there is a definite call for Christian work from any section of the community, save as need means a call. As to the attitude of the officials, the Governor is helpful; some of the others in high position are unfriendly. World-war conditions have made our finances difficult.

Our Needs are, more workers, and especially more funds to enable us to reach out into the unoccupied sections. Two more families would make it possible to cover our territory fairly well, outside of Yokohama, provided funds to permit expansion accompanied them. Yokohama is a problem by itself.

NAGOYA DISTRICT

DAVID S. SPENCER

Bishop Hiraiwa includes four provinces in Nagoya District,—Aichi, Gifu, Miye and Shiga,—with an area of 9595 sq. mile and a population of 5,250,000. Methodism's job is one fifth of this. Comparing territory, Nagoya District, about the size of Vermont, has more than 14 times its population. There are nearly as many people in this district as in the States of Mass., Conn., Del., New Hampshire, N.J., and Vermont combined. Much of this area is carrying 1053 to the sq. mile. All the cities of New Hampshire and Vermont combined would not serve to populate one Nagoya; it is twice the size of Jersey City, and nearly that of Boston.

The Industrial conditions of the region are prosperous. Immense factories are springing up all about us. Nagoya alone has 40,000 operatives in factories. Rice, Cotton goods, Porcelain, Confections, Cars and Vehicles, Shoes, Packing Boxes, Clocks and Lacquer goods are the chief products. Nagoya city is the commercial, industrial, educational, political, and religious center, as well as the geographical.

Provisions for Secular Education are good. Nagoya has 50,000 children in her common schools, and 18 Higher grade schools with 10,000 students. Some 600 common schools supply the district, and house nearly 600,000 children. There are 3 Christian schools, one for boys and 2 for girls. Education is opening the way for Christian truth.

The non-Christian Religions are strong, and have immense property interests. Buddhism claims 11,276 temples and 10,200 priests; Shinto 12,667 shrines and 859 priests. Nagoya alone has 367 Buddhist temples, one of which has property 21 times that of all the Christian institutions here. Both Buddhism and Shin-

toism are reviving, and are imitating Christian ways.

Moral conditions are shocking. The reports show 3837 licensed prostitutes and 2436 *Geisha* in the district, but it is known that these figures do not tell the whole truth. The yearly income from licensed prostitution in Nagoya alone exceeds 12,000,000 Yen. Wine and women go together. We have 17 breweries and 659 licensed saloons in this single city, besides which every eating house deals in intoxicants. To rescue the young here is a problem of serious concern. Public sentiment is very low.

How is Methodism meeting this job? We have one missionary family and three single ladies for all this work, the conduct of the girls' school included. We have in the whole district 11 churches and chapels, with 337 members; 19 Sunday schools with 1200 children in them; 2 kindergartens with about 90 children in them; a number of women's meetings, Bible classes for students, especially young men, teacher training classes, and the like. A recent campaign has given us about 200 additional probationers. 41 have been baptized during the year. The work is encouraging, but our equipment is shamefully inadequate.

Other Missionary Forces in the field are the Episcopal, Presbyterian, Methodist Protestant and Lutheran Missions, with some native churches of several other bodies. The first three names exceed us in strength, though coming later than we to this field.

The Attitude of the Official class is favorable to us. The school teachers are often strongly opposed for political reasons, Shinto being urged strongly.

Our Needs are for more missionary workers, more native evangelists, and adequate funds to keep them at work. Two missionary families should be added to this district at once. Work among the young is promising. A Social Hall is a prime necessity.

NORTH KYUSHU DISTRICT

CHARLES S. DAVISON

North Kyushu District embraces mainly the two provinces of Fukuoka and Nagasaki, with an area of 3490 sq. miles and a population of 3,061,117. For this territory Methodism's responsibility is reckoned at one-fifth. No strict division of territory has been made, but overlapping seldom occurs. Baptist, Congregational, Dutch Reformed, Episcopal, Lutheran and Nazarene Missions also have work here.

The Industries of the section are Rice, Silk, Wheat, Tobacco, Iron Works, Porcelain, Cement, Nitrate and Coal-mining. 13% of the people live in cities of 35,000 and over. Fishing is an industry carried on all around the island. Great developments are taking place along all industrial lines.

The Educational Conditions are also good, as good as the average in Japan. There are 91 schools of Middle Grade or above, up to University grade, having in them 23,313 students; and 1009 Primary schools, with 403,325 pupils. Not all the children are in school, for if they were, the above figures for attendance would have been 491,044. But five Normal schools are preparing teachers, and 23 High schools are educating 6450 girls; so that woman is coming to the front.

The Old Religions have their hold upon the people, as is shown by the existence of 2074 Buddhist Temples, the Shinshu Sect leading, and 7890 Shintō shrines in this district. Temples are generally in good repair, and the people conservative. Old religions may be said to be "marking time." Some of the temples are very popular, and still attract great

numbers on special occasions. The commercial spirit is affecting even these ancient faiths.

When we come to Moral Conditions, the situation is discouraging. Licensed prostitution is covering the land with what is vainly called protection to society and morals, nothing of the kind. The last figures, covering a five year survey, show startling increase in vice. This district reports 4261 licensed prostitutes, and 12,092 *geisha*, the latter popularly classed as equally involved with the former in sin. They occupy 853 houses, and the 1676 *Riyoriya* or restaurants, and 6,133 *Inshokuten*, another form of eating house, are said to furnish guests to them. They are also said to have connections established with the temples. As all these eating houses are also dealers in intoxicants, and are linked up with the licensed saloons, the situation is one vast network of vice. Christian missions and their friends are the only forces attempting to combat this intrenched evil.

Our Methodist Showing is as follows : 12 Churches and Chapels, 59 Sunday schools with 2,903 Scholars, 781 Full Members, 471 Probationers, making a total increase the past year of 169. There are 3 Kindergartens with 120 children, and we have 760 students in Mission schools. The Chiuzei Gakuin reports on page 24. The Kwassui Jo Gakko of the W. F. M. S. is a valuable support to this whole Christian propagandism. Methodism leads in numbers and influence.

The Attitude of Officials is friendly or indifferent generally ; educational work is encouraged ; attendance upon religious services is increasing.

Our Great Needs, to strengthen our schools already established, and to supply funds for more native workers. We need a new man at Fukuoka.

SOUTH KYUSHU DISTRICT

J. C. DAVISON, SUPT.

This district in our work covers the Kumamoto and Kagoshima provinces. The Rev. Earl R. Bull, Kagoshima, is Missionary-in-Charge. Its area is 6390 sq. miles, and population 2,700,792. This work falls about one-third to our responsibility. Methodism began work in Kagoshima 38 years ago. The Baptist, Episcopal, Congregational, Dutch Reformed, and Lutheran Missions work along side of us especially in the northern section.

The **Industrial life** of the section finds expression in the production of Rice, Sugar, Silk, Porcelain, Cement, Gold-mining, Silver-mining, and Fisheries. Agricultural products have here a country-wide reputation.

From the **Standpoint of Education** we are well equipped. Of schools of Middle grade and above, we have in the district 74, with 18,251 students in them. Below Middle grade are 1139 schools, with 372,120 children in them. But here the figures ought to be 446,161, to show perfect attendance. Our Church has no Mission school in this district, but the Lutherans have a Middle School and a Theological Department at Kumamoto.

Buddhism and Shintoism have not neglected this historic section, the former having 1201 Temples, the latter 5962 Shrines, and they are not dead. But the true status of these ancient faiths is that of "marking time." Some sections show awakening life. This appears in imitating Protestantism. They gather 700 children in their Nishi Hongwanji S. School. They are also introducing the stereopticon.

Moral Conditions demand our attention. The whole district reports 1464 licensed prostitutes, 3522 *Geisha*,

122 houses of ill-fame, and 654 *Ryoriya*, and 2210 *Inshokuten*, together with many saloons. *Sake* drinking is Satsuma's worst curse. Kagoshima Ken has 144 sake brewers. The number for Kumamoto is not known. The awakening interest of the people of this section in the study of the evils of alcoholism is the encouraging sign.

Methodist Statistics show that we have in this district 1 self-supporting church, 5 aided churches, and 5 chapels, 11 in all. In them are 17 Sunday Schools and 933 scholars. There are also 540 full Members, and 167 Probationers; making an increase of 154 for the year. We also have 2 Kindergartens, with 84 children. The work of the missionary is now largely given to helping the churches and chapels in six or more isolated places, where the work is still weak. The W.F.M.S. is represented by Miss Finlay and four Bible women, who are a great aid to the work. We have a good constituency outside the church membership. Our own work as a whole will compare favorably with that of the other Missions here employed, and probably outnumber them all, Greek and Roman Catholics excepted. In addition to the above, Mr. and Mrs. Bull hold six weekly meetings a Sunday school and 2 Bible Classes for Normal and Commercial students, and are opening work in outlying sections. They have 92 enquirers enrolled. The Stereopticon is much used. Much credit is given the Japanese helpers.

The Needs of this district are a missionary home for the family located here, and additional funds with which to secure Japanese helpers. More literature is needed for circulation among those who are inquiring, and to whom such is now being sent at intervals. They are located at places distant from the chapels.

THE SOUTHERN ISLANDS MISSION DISTRICT

(Loo Choo Islands)

E. R. BULL

This District consists of fifty three islands covering 875 square miles which support a population of 566,000.

Commercially speaking, the main products are sugar, katsuo bushi, sweet potatoes, lacquer and the adambi hat. Only the last article has been affected by the war, about all countries excepting America, having canceled all orders.

Educationally, Okinawa is far behind the other counties and herein lies one of her most important problems.

Social Conditions. The moral standard of the islanders is very low but they furnish us our most hopeful field. Sake drinkers abound and the one weak Temperance Society has yet much to do.

Religion. The churches at work in this District are the Baptists working in Naha, Shuri and Itoman; the Presbyterians working in Shuri and Naha; the Congregationalists in Naha; the Oriental Missionary Band in Nago; and the Methodists in Naha, Shuri, Tomari, Sueyesu, Yonabaru, Sashiki, Kuba, Awase, Yontanzen on the island of Okinawa and at Kametsu on the island of Toku-no-shima. The Presbyterians, Congregationalists and Oriental Band workers having recently entered the field, are comparatively weak.

In Okinawa County there are 26 Buddhist temples and 34 priests, eight Shinto shrines and eleven Shinto priests. In Oshima Gun not a single Buddhist temple or Shinto shrine is to be found, which fact, may account for the great activity of the Roman Catholic



District Conference Group, Hokkaido



Snake Charmers in Loo Choo

Church on the island Oshima. However, to say that their 3661 believers in Oshima have wrought deep changes in the lives of the common people, would misrepresent the case. Be this as it may, the absolute lack of religion led the Mission, through Dr. H. B. Schwartz, to begin work on the island of Toku no-shima (Virtue Island) where we now have a church and parsonage valued at Yen 2300.00. From June 12th to 29th the writer with a co-laborer was absent, helping this work. We spoke to good crowds but found a lack of the sense of need of any religion. Where there we just missed seeing the popular island pastime of bull-fighting, but were able to partake in the semi-yearly "Snake-Hunt." During the day in question every islander left his ordinary employment paying 30 sen a day and searched hill and dale for the deadly "Habu." The result of the day's killing was that 56 snakes were brought to the village office before night fall, the captor receiving fifty sen for each poisonous snake captured within the hours of the day.

In no other county is so little known of the Christian God as here. It may be due to the difference of language, the poverty of the people or the narrow vision of an isolated people, but whatever the cause, this unusual evangelistic opportunity awaits us or whatever denomination chooses to labor there.

A native, Murayama Saburo, will graduate next March from a special course at Kwansei Gakuin.

The District Sup't. Mr. Kihara desires to open up new work in Kuba, Awase, Tomari and in the island of Yaeyama, all of which are promising places for our work.

For the District	1912	1916
Actual working membership	339	583
Total given for self support	\$295.00	\$469.00

KOREA DISTRICT (Japanese Work)

F. HERRON SMITH

The Korea District covers the country called Chosen, and is confined in its work to the Japanese who emigrate to Korea in tens of thousands. This work is administered from the South Japan Annual Conference, and F. Herron Smith is its Superintendent.

Traveling Facilities are rapidly improving. Civil Governor Yamagata left yesterday for the north to open another 50 miles section of the railroad. This new section connects Seishin with the Manchurian border near Vladivostok. Seoul is promised a new railway station next year. In October a great bridge over the Han River, just south of Seoul, was opened to traffic. Now one may go by automobile over splendid roads to almost any point in South Korea. Work has already been begun on a bridge over the Taitong River at Pyengyang, and in another year or two the connections between the sections of the road already completed will be made, and all parts of North Korea will also be accessible by auto. The trip to Kangei, the most distant mission station formerly required seven days, but can now be made in one.

Educational Conditions are Improving. The Medical, Technical and Law Schools in Seoul, and the Agricultural School in Suwon have all been raised to College grade, and made equal to the Special Colleges of Japan proper. Common schools for the children of the land are, however, wanting to a very great degree. Most of the schools now in existence are supported by Missions.

Police Conditions are Improving. The garrisons that have hitherto been stationed all over the country are no longer deemed necessary and have been

withdrawn. The troops now here are really only conscripts in four centers, where permanent barracks have been erected. Koreans are being used increasingly in police and official service, as well as in industrial lines.

The past year has been fruitful in *Religious Matters*. Our new Japanese Methodist Church in Seoul was dedicated by Bishop Welch as one of his first services on reaching our field. This service constituted the greatest religious meeting for Japanese ever held in Seoul. The Program included Bishops Welch, Harris and Hiraiwa, Home Minister Usami, Judge Watanabe of the Supreme Court, Governor Matsunaga, Mayor Kanaya, and many representative Japanese and foreigners. The fine building and furniture cost Yen 25,000, and is free of debt excepting a claim of \$1500 on the land, which the Board of Foreign Mission has kindly agreed to care for in the Centenary Campaign. The Japanese Korea Mission began ten years ago, under the leadership of Brother Kihara and Bishop Harris, with tremendous odds against it. Today the Chosen District ranks second or third in the West Japan Conference. We have 11 Churches with pastors, and 573 Full Members, who, exclusive of sums given for land and buildings, gave Yen 5860.30 for ordinary Church expenses. The Genzan Church members gave \$15.38 Gold per member for the year.

Difficulties still crowd our pathway; the Japanese are in a new land, amidst new temptations, removed from the restraints of former home circles, and moved by the impulses which characterize the pioneer. Without proper religious teaching, they soon wander far from the path of rectitude. Means must be found to occupy Suwon and Kongju, large Japanese centers, and that right soon.

AOYAMA GAKUIN

A. D. BERRY

Aoyama Gakuin is our great school at Aoyama, Tokyo. It comprises three departments, with students as follows: Academy, 595; College, 192; and Theological, 23; Total 810. This shows a steady increase year by year in total enrollment, which showing would be larger did we not have to turn away men annually for want of room.

There are 9 foreigners and 45 Japanese in the faculty, or faculties of the school. These faculties are gradually being rebuilt from among the late alumni. These men come back after their post-graduate work and are immensely strengthening the school.

The reputation which the school sustains for better work in English and better moral influence than other schools, is giving it a constantly stronger place in the sympathies of the people.

The alumni are very friendly and loyal to the school. When the project for union with another school was recently broached, special concern was manifested among the alumni lest this union destroy the continuity of our school with its past. For several years the contributions of the alumni kept the school from an annual financial deficit. More recently large gifts are coming in from the alumni to aid us in the expansion plans. Mr. Katsuta, one of our old students, has given us a College building costing \$120,000. He has also built a house for the President on the grounds, costing \$5,000, and has re-roofed our Academy building.

Aside from the Theological School, which has practically no local receipts, the total income for running expenses for the last financial year was

\$16,715, of which \$4,100 came from the Mission and the balance from local receipts.

The plan of expansion adopted in 1914 is being carried out. The entire place is taking on a new aspect. Mission residences are being removed to the rear of the grounds and grouped around a neat open court and all the wide front thrown open to the expansion of the school. New dormitories, models for Japan, are being erected. The splendid new College building will greatly strengthen the school. The friends of Bishop Harris have presented him with a beautiful residence, located in the grounds next to the President's house. A fine brick wall, built from brick taken from the demolished and out worn dormitories, has been built across the front of the grounds. Three new Japanese residences have been constructed for officers of the school. A Gymnasium, an Athletic Field, and a Library building are planned, and other buildings will soon become a necessity.

The religious life of the school has had one of its most successful years. The Bible is taught to every class in the school. In addition voluntary Bible classes have brought rich fruitage. The Church congregations have been the largest in years. 121 students received baptism during the Conference year recently closed, of whom 32 were from the College and Academy. Of the 99 graduates in 1917, 57 were Christians. Very little antagonism is manifested; but some parents object to sons becoming Christians.

We are planning full union in all departments with the Evangelical Association and are already united in Theological work. We are also committed to the Union Christian University plan.

CHINZEI GAKUIN

F. N. SCOTT

Chinzei Gakuin is the Mission's Middle School, located in Nagasaki. It has capacity for 450 students and is always full. Many applicants have to be refused yearly. The Rev. K. Uzaki is the Principal. A Board of Directors, chosen by the Mission have general oversight, with a Missionary responsible for the business management. The Revs. C. S. Davison and R. S. Spencer are the foreign teachers. There are 16 professors, and 3 special teachers, all Japanese.

The classes are too crowded for the best results. More and better buildings, and a slightly increased subsidy are a necessity to proper results.

The school stands increasingly well with the public, as is shown by the increased applicants, and the appreciation of the moral atmosphere of the school by alumni and by prominent friends. It is supposed to do the same grade of work as Government Middle Schools, but really does better in some lines. The classes are more stable than formerly, and the grade of men taken in has improved.

The attitude of the alumni is one of extreme loyalty and devotion. We have as yet no rich men among our alumni, but they are doing well, and recently pledged themselves to support the school program for expansion. 70% of the income of the school is from local sources, and 30% from the Mission.

We are planning for a complete equipment as a first class Middle School. For this we must have \$1,000 additional subsidy annually. In addition we need a wet-weather drill shed for Gymnasium work.

Christian Students at Chitsei Gakuin, Nagasaki





A section of Our Office



Our Publishing House

Our status as a Government school makes this necessary. Such a shed would be used 33 hours per week for classes. Without it classes are disorganized every rainy day. *We need a New Chapel.* The present one is badly located, and is so small that reverent exercises with 450 students and 20 teachers therein is out of the question. A building for administration and class room work is needed. Removal of old dormitory and reconstruction is needed, to give us better dormitory rooms and the space where the present building stands for other necessary buildings. Space for exercise is needed. At present we have not space for even a good tennis court. A large plot outside the city, large enough for a base-ball field and athletic sports is needed. This is our plan of expansion, and it has been duly approved by Board of Managers, by Mission, and by Mission Council.

The Religious results of our school are most encouraging. Wesley Church has its home in our school and is composed mostly of the students of our own school and those of the Kwassui Jo Gakko. The pastorate is a Conference appointment. The Pastor teaches a little in each school. Each class has daily study in the Bible and Ethics from the Christian standpoint. Dormitory prayer meetings come four nights each week. A Morning Watch Band of unusual size attracts much attention and brings results. Special evangelistic services are held. The tone of the institution is Christian throughout. Steady gains in this line have been made through recent years. First one third became Christians, then one-half; and now the proportion is more than two thirds. 60% to 70% of the graduates are active Christians.

There is still hope of our being able to unite with the Dutch Reformed School in this place, thereby strengthening educational work here.

KYO BUN KWAN
(Methodist Publishing House)

G. A. HOLLIDAY

The Kyo Bun Kwan is now on its 32nd year in Tokyo and shows a live and growing business. During the twelve months ending Nov. 30th., 1917 sales amounted to ¥88,377.37. This means that approximately 250,000 English and Japanese Books, Bibles, Hymnals, and Tracts have been placed in the hands of readers through this one agency. It means, also, that hundreds of Sunday Schools have been supplied with International Sunday School Quarterlies and Leaflets, in Japanese, printed by our own Publishing House.

The Kyo Bun Kwan will, during the next five years, publish a set of eleven grades of Sunday School Lessons furnished by the National Sunday School Association of Japan. This Association, being interdenominational, guarantees a widespread use of these new Lessons throughout the Empire. The Publishing House is furnishing the capital for these publications, and is also advancing the funds necessary for the work of the Association in preparing these Lessons. Manuscript is being turned over to us for publication as rapidly as it is finished.

We enjoy a peculiar relationship with the Christian Literature Society. Since last March we have been the Main Book Depot and Sales Room for the Society. At the Annual Conference of our Mission a plan was approved allowing the Manager to expend ¥500.00 per year for the expansion of this one phase of the work.

In the last few years the Japanese have developed a remarkable taste for good literature. The Pub-

lishing House, the Christian Literature Society, and the Mission Schools are doing much to encourage this upward tendency. The way in which the younger generation is taking hold of good literature, especially English, is surprising. One must not lose sight of the fact that Japan has many able scholars and that, as Tokyo is the center of the life of Japan, the literary taste here is very much developed. We strive to supply the proper reading material for this demand. Our intimate connections with Publishers in all parts of the civilized world make it possible for us to meet this need. Our close association with the various Publishers here in Japan, and also with the Societies whose sole duties are translating and publishing worthy books, sermons, pamphlets, etc., in the Japanese Language, makes it easy for us to co-operate in extending this influence into quarters where foreign languages are not used.

We can see no appreciable falling off in the business on account of the war. In fact business has been steadily increasing in some departments of the work.

We are now at work on a plan of expansion of the direct work of the Publishing House, including the establishing of twelve sub-stations in the principal cities of the Empire, choosing points in the various parts of the country for the purpose of making Christian Literature more easily accessible.

One of these sub-stations is to be placed in Kanda, an intellectual section of Tokyo. This store will be opened as soon as a suitable location can be secured.

Our plan will necessitate an expenditure of money, quite a little money, but *it is work that must not be neglected*. As the need is great, the plans must be large and the efforts untiring if we are to measure up to our opportunities.

OUR INTERDENOMINATIONAL ACTIVITIES

G. F. DRAPER

BIBLE TRANSLATION

Of all such activities that which stands first in the minds of most of us is our share in the work of Bible translation. The Japanese version of the Bible that has been in use up to the present was made, in the main, by others who had been longer on the field, but the founder of our Mission, Dr. R. S. MacKay, from his long experience in China, proved to be an able assistant in this work when he was added to the original committee on translation. This version was published, so far as the New Testament was concerned, in 1880.

For some time a revision has been felt to be a necessity, so for the past seven years a committee composed of foreigners and Japanese from the various Churches has been diligently employed in this delightful, though by no means easy, task. From the beginning C. S. Davison has been our representative on this committee, being especially fitted for it by his facile use of the Japanese language as well as by his knowledge of the Greek. The revision has now been completed and will very soon be put upon the market.

There is also a permanent committee on Bible Translation on which we have representation.

UNION HYMNAL

Next in importance to the Word of God we must place the hymns of the Church.

Up to the present the hymns in use by the Japanese Churches are, both as to tunes and words, largely the ones we have known in the home-land. There are more original words than tunes, though the translation is often very free. The Japanese music has not yet been adapted to Christian uses, and very

few effective hymn writers have as yet arisen among our Christians.

Dr. J. C. Davison was our pioneer in hymnology and thanks to his untiring efforts we had an excellent Methodist Hymnal. However, a very vital step toward Christian unity was taken in 1900. The Japanese Evangelical Alliance, at its session in April of that year unanimously decided in favor of a union hymnal: six months later this action was heartily endorsed by the General Missionary Conference held in Tokyo. A Union Hymnal Committee was organized in which we have had membership since 1901. The new hymnal made its appearance at the close of 1903; so that now all the Protestant Churches,—save the Anglican Communion,—have a common hymnal as well as a common Bible. In this way a strong bond of unity has been formed, to say nothing of the great convenience to the Christian community, which is even yet so small in numbers, comparatively, that it finds anything tending to accentuate its solidarity of very great value.

We are thankful to have had a part in this great work, through the members of our Mission who have served on this Committee.

CONFERENCE OF FEDERATED MISSIONS

This Conference was organized in 1902 as the Standing Committee of Co-operating Missions, and from its incipency our Mission has had representation in the Conference and on the various committees which have been appointed by it. The purpose of the Conference has been to forward and draw into closer intimacy the work that the several Missions are endeavoring to do; in fact we may say to act as a sort of Clearing House for Missions in the Empire.

Prominent among the committees is the one "On Survey and Occupation," which endeavors to present

a comprehensive view of the Christian work throughout the Empire; discover the uncultivated regions, and prevent, as far as possible, all unwise overlapping in effort.

The Committee on Sunday Schools also has a most vital task. Its recent endeavor to bring about a closer relation between the Missions and the National Sunday School Association, and thus greatly increase the efficiency of both in this important work forms one instance of its value.

We note these as suggestive of the varied work of the Conference in which we have a full share. This year Dr. A. D. Berry has been honored with the Presidency of the Conference.

The annual publication of the Conference entitled "The Christian Movement in the Japanese Empire" is a volume indispensable to any one who would be in touch with the trend of events in the Japanese Christian world, for it is a compendium of current condition in the Empire. This year, and in part last year, the burden of editing this Year Book has fallen upon one of our members,—E. T. Iglehart,—and has formed no light task when added to a full share in the other activities of our Mission.

CHRISTIAN LITERATURE SOCIETY

This Society originated as a committee of the Conference of Federated Missions and has developed into a separate organization, under the auspices of the Conference.

In the exceedingly important work of this Society we have had a very definite part from its beginning, Dr. Berry being our representative.

The fifth Annual Report is both interesting and encouraging. A constantly increasing volume of valuable and inspiring literature is being put into the hands of the reading public, and this public is

increasing year by year. For the years 1913 to 1916 the output has shown a great advance; from four million pages, in 1913 to forty millions, in 1916, and the limit is by no means reached as yet, save as it may be fixed by lack of funds.

The Society is financed by grants from the supporting Missions and by special gifts.

JAPANESE LANGUAGE SCHOOL

This school has developed into a very important factor in the education of missionaries for service in this land. In its earlier phases we were closely connected with it, and continued so to be during its development under the efficient guidance of the late greatly lamented Prof. Frank Muller. When the latter returned home last year in the hope of gaining restoration of health, C. S. Davison, relieved of the work of Bible translation, took his place as Managing Director until the summer vacation. Our Mission has profited by the efficiency of this School as our younger members have been enrolled as students.

SCHOOL FOR FOREIGN CHILDREN

Another general project that may not seem directly missionary but which has, nevertheless, a very intimate relation to the efficiency of our Mission body is this School. It is conducted by a Board of Trustees on which we have representation. Many public spirited foreign residents contribute to its support and the Mission Boards give grants in aid. The aim of the School is to provide work of the Primary and High School grades, thus enabling the missionaries to keep their children with them here much longer than was possible in former years, when the family had to be broken up as soon as the children came of High School age.

CONTINUATION COMMITTEE AND THE THREE YEAR EVANGELISTIC CAMPAIGN

We should note also the Edinburgh Continuation

Committee organized in Japan by Dr. John R. Mott, in which we, in common with the other Missions, have our due part. As an outcome of this organization there was undertaken a Three Year Evangelistic Campaign. This has been largely in the hands of the Japanese Christian leaders, but missionaries have been associated with them on the central committees of the East and of the West, as well as on the local committees wherever work was undertaken. Dr. Draper was our representative.

This campaign was brought to a close with a conference held in the Y.M.C.A. summer quarters at Gotemba, just at the base of Mt. Fuji. There were about two hundred and fifty Japanese present from the different Churches and about twenty five or thirty missionaries. As one of the latter, who was in close touch with the financial side of the whole movement, said—"The inspirational and spiritual value of that conference was such as to have justified the expense of the entire campaign." The manifest spirit of unity among all present and the predominant note of loyalty to Christ and the necessity of keeping close to Him in true success is to be gained in Christian work made all of us feel that we were treading on holy ground. The Spirit's presence was very evident, and all felt that it was good to be there. In fact a strong desire was expressed that such a conference might be held from time to time.

NATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

This association was organized ten years ago with great possibilities before it as a means of developing this most important branch of Christian work. It has instituted a Summer School for training workers and is coming more in touch with the nation's Sunday Schools. Dr. D. S. Spencer represents us.

COMPARATIVE STATISTICS

District	Hokkaido District	Hirosaki District	Sendai District
Area, Sq. M.....	30,267	10,456	17,310
Population.....	1,911,166	1,775,000	3,951,500
Methodist Responsible.....	477,792	591,334	1,000,000
Per Cent. Rural Pop.	80	90	87
Middle Schools.....	4	7	12
Students in them	2,609	2,820	4,844
Normal Schools	2	4	4
Students	507	1,047	937
Primary Schools	1,343	1,963	1,097
Children	267,231	239,044	267,381
Other High Schools	7	6	10
Students	713	892	1627
Licensed Prostitute	2,182	845	1032
Unlicensed	1,398	—	—
Houses of Prostitution	328	—	—
<i>Geisha</i>	1,530	304	708
Licensed Saloons	—	600	—
Buddhist Temples	720	1,056	2,506
Priests	632	756	1,685
Shinto Shrines	448	1,387	1,678
Shinto Priests	135	481	743
Meth. Chs. & Chapels	14	10	11
S.S. & Kindergarten	26	32	25
Children	1,845	1,290	1,000
Ch. Memb. & Proba's.	909	400	363
Increase	109	402	—
Mission H. Schools	2	1	1
Students.....	300	60	42

NOTE:—* It will be seen that these statistics are not entirely complete. They are less than the true figures where discrepancy occurs.

N. means figures for Nagoya City only. * means partly estimated.

JAPAN METHODIST FIELD

Tokyo District E. & W.	Yokohama District	Nagoya District	No. Kyushu District	So. Kyoshu District	Loochoo District
7,500	1,364	9,595	3,490	6,390	873
4,500,000	1,300,000	5,250,000	3,061,117	2,700,792	566,000
1,000,000	450,000	1,250,000	612,228	900,264	250,000
40	50	74	80	80	80
35	7	13	19	13	
17,181	2,400	4,848	8,495	6,475	
3	2	5	5	5	
1,367	450	1,368	1,641	1,636	
617	297	1,296	1,42	1,330	
305,203	160,000	413,142	403,325	372,120	
15	15	9	76	32	
5,928	2,900	2,805	5,113	2,454	
6,041	2,311	3,837	4,261	1,464	
—	—	N. 2,188	—	—	
—	185	N. 470	853	22	
5,684	—	3,553	12,092	3,522	
—	4,267	N. 929	—	—	
2,568	1,742	11,276	2,074	1,201	
2,104	—	10,200	1,814	802	
684	1,482	12,667	7,890	5,962	
340	—	859	725	533	
23	10	11	12	11	
40	14	21	62	19	
3,224	1,031	1,072	3,023	1,027	
3,810	1,037	375	1,252	707	
374	99	18	169	154	583
2	2	1	3		* 100
1,160	172	60	760		

Korea District figures obviously could not be harmonized with the above items, because of fundamentally different environment. But Korea has 8 Jap. Methodist Churches and Chapels, 12 Sunday schools, 849 children in them, 620 Church Members, which is an increase of 116 since last year.

(Conclusion of Foreword from Page 1)

military and naval departments, and through the Imperial House Department, to strengthen the Throne in the affections of the people. The emphasis is being placed upon the promotion of ancestor worship rather than upon Shintō; and it is said publicly that this is not a religious movement. But with the masses the movement is regarded as religious, and in many instances the progress of our Sunday school work is being hindered, and young men and women are being deterred from publicly coming out on the side of the Gospel.

A glance at page 33 reveals a situation of general enlightenment accompanied with social conditions which, when protected by Government license and approval, makes the work of the religious reformer about as difficult as it is possible to make it. And when this situation is accompanied, as in Japan at the present moment, with great material and financial prosperity, there is at once discovered a reason why the figures denoting Church Membership do not mount up more rapidly. Fifteen years and more ago, missionaries with vision pleaded with home churches for immediate reinforcement of this field to meet the rising tide of error, and the spirit of inquiry then awakened as a result of conditions prevailing in the Far East. That reinforcement came very tardily or not at all. The opportunity to help Japan has not passed, but the situation has in some respects grown decidedly more difficult. Improved equipment and additional funds have become a necessity in order to save the situation; but even more than these is needed a mighty revival of spiritual power. We must have the home Church *strongly with us* in this critical situation.

MISSIONARIES OF OUR BOARD

Alexander, R. P.	Aoyama Gakuin, Tokyo.
Berry, A. D.	" " "
Bishop, Charles	" " "
Blair, F. H.	" " "
Blanks, A. F.	" " "
Bull, E. R.	70 Ike-no-ue cho, Kagoshima.
Davison, J. C.	435 Furushinyashiki, Kumamoto.
Davison, C. S.	6 Higashi Yamate, Nagasaki.
Draper, G. F.	222-B. Bluff, Yokohama.
Heckelman, F. W.	2 Naebo-machi, Sapporo.
Holliday, G. A.	Aoyama Gakuin, Tokyo.
Iglehart, E. T.	" " "
Iglehart, C. W.	3 Sanbau-cho, Sendai.
Jones, J. Ira	On furlough in U. S. A.
Martin, J. V.	Aoyama Gakuin, Tokyo.
Scott, F. N.	On furlough in U. S. A.
Smith, F. H.	Seoul, Korea.
Spencer, David S.	6 Hi-saya-cho, Nogoya.
Spencer R. S.	12 Higashi Yamate, Nagasaki.
Wheeler, H. A.	On furlough in U. S. A.





